

Report by the Government Statist for the information of the Honorable the Chief Secretary.

A GENERAL VIEW of the records of the Consumption of Alcoholic Liquors shows that during the six years, 1914-15 to 1920-21, the Drink Bill of the State nearly doubled, this being due to the substantial increases in prices, while during that period the quantity consumed per inhabitant and the convictions for drunkenness per 1,000 of population fell considerably. From 1920-21 to 1925-26, the value consumed per head has increased only slightly, but there has been a steady increase in the convictions.

VALUES. For the year ended June 30th 1926, the alcoholic drink bill of the State was estimated to be not less than £2,978,409 equal to £5.7.11 per inhabitant, compared with £2,831,973 or £5.5.2 per inhabitant for the previous year and £1,326,185 or £2.19.2 per inhabitant in 1914-15.

QUANTITIES. The 4 years prior to 1924-25 had indicated a continuous increase in the quantity of Spirits consumed per inhabitant which had been counterbalanced by a continuous decrease in the quantity of beer consumed, and this appears to also have been the experience of the Commonwealth as a whole. This however, was reversed for 1924-25 and 1925-26. The quantities consumed per inhabitant were ^{Beer} 10.73 (10.30) gallons, Spirits .34 (.35) proof gallons. The consumption of wine had been estimated each year at .75 gallons per inhabitant.

CONVICTIONS FOR DRUNKENNESS. During the year 1925 there were 5,795 (4,961) convictions for drunkenness averaging 10.65 (9.37) convictions per 1,000 inhabitants. This is considerably higher than the previous year and had only been exceeded in the years immediately preceding the war. The year 1914 recorded 5,243 convictions averaging 11.77 per 1,000 inhabitants. These convictions include several against the same person. Distinct persons convicted were 4,572 (3,973), average 8.40 (7.50) compared with 1914 - 4,073, average 9.14.

NET REVENUE from Customs and Excise Duties in the State for Alcoholic Beverages is given as £1,191,338 (£1,067,509).

Summarised, the following are the principal details:-

Year	Drink Bill		Galls. consumed per Inhabitant.		Year	Drunkenness	
	Total	Per Inhabitant	Beer	Spirits		Convictions	Per 1,000 Inhab.
	£	£ s. d.	Galls.	Pf. galls.			
1914-15	1,326,185	2.19. 2	12.10	.42	1914	5,243	11.77
1920-21	2,545,370	5.3. 8	12.29	.28	1920	3,448	7.08
1921-22	2,578,436	5. 2. 7	10.97	.29	1921	3,443	6.92
1922-23	2,656,198	5. 3. 6	10.59	.32	1922	3,764	7.44
1923-24	2,718,213	5. 3. 7	9.88	.36	1923	4,496	8.73
1924-25	2,831,973	5. 5. 2	10.30	.35	1924	4,961	9.37
1925-26	2,978,409	5. 7.11	10.73	.34	1925	5,795	10.65

Statistical Office,
Adelaide,
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